In the Claims

1. - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) Axial piston micropump comprising a cylinder drum, a plurality of cylinders, and a swash plate, the swash plate being rotatable with respect to ~~which~~ the cylinder drum, at least one of the cylinders comprising a working cylinder having an associated working piston, and at least one other of the cylinders comprising a balance cylinder having an associated balance piston, each said balance cylinder being located in said cylinder drum.

18. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which only one cylinder is a working cylinder.

19. (Currently amended) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which the working piston is surrounded proximate an end remote from the swash plate by a resilient ring located between the working piston and the cylinder drum ~~to follow movement of the working piston~~.

20. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 19, in which the ring has a radially inner annular sealing flange and a radially outer annular supporting flange substantially concentric with respect to the inner annular sealing flange, the flanges being joined by an annular web of reduced thickness.

21. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 20, in which the sealing flange has a smaller thickness than the supporting flange.

22. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 19, in which the ring is located in a circumferential groove.

23. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 19, in which the resilient ring is located between cylinder drum and valve plate.

24. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 23, in which the ring has a radially inner annular sealing flange and a radially outer annular supporting flange substantially concentric with respect to the inner annular sealing flange, the flanges being joined by an annular web of reduced thickness.

25. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 24, in which the sealing flange has a smaller thickness than the supporting flange.

26. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 23, in which the ring is located in a circumferential groove.

27. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which each cylinder is surrounded proximate an end face adjacent to the valve plate by a resilient ring located between the cylinder drum and the valve plate.

28. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which the cylinder drum has a through bore for each cylinder and is connected without permitting relative rotation on a side remote from the swash plate to a valve plate having an opening only for each working cylinder.

29. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 28, in which each working cylinder has a working chamber in which the working piston and its end face move, the working chamber being formed in the valve plate.

30. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 28, in which the opening in the valve plate has a constant diameter over the thickness of the valve plate.

31. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which the valve plate bears against a control plate unit which is non-rotatably located in a housing, the control plate unit being supported on the housing by a resilient bearing.

32. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which at least one of the valve plate and the control plate unit is made from ceramic material.

33. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17 in which the cylinder drum is driven by a stepper motor.

34. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, having a displacement per revolution less than 10 μl.

35. (Original) Axial piston micropump according to claim 17, in which the pistons have bias springs of substantially equal strength.